



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7257

LCO No. 4579

04579_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) The registrars of voters, on the Tuesday of the fifth week before
4 each regular election, shall [be in session for the purpose of completing
5 a correct] complete a list of all electors who will be entitled to vote at
6 such election. Such registry list shall consist of an active registry list
7 and an inactive registry list. [Such session shall be held during such
8 hours between nine o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. as the registrars
9 find necessary to complete the list. Notice of such session shall be
10 given at least five days before the session by publication in a
11 newspaper having a circulation in such municipality, if any, and by
12 posting on the signpost therein, if any, or at some other exterior place
13 near the office of the town clerk. Such publication shall not be required
14 to be in the form of a legal advertisement.]

15 (b) [At such session and on any day except on the day of an election
16 or primary, the registrars] On a routine basis throughout the year, the
17 registrars of voters shall remove from the list the name of each elector
18 who has died, who has been disfranchised or who has confirmed in
19 writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality, except
20 electors entitled to remain on such list under the provisions of this
21 chapter. An elector shall be deemed to have confirmed in writing that
22 the elector has moved out of the municipality if (1) the elector has
23 submitted a change of address form for purposes of a state motor
24 vehicle operator's license, unless the elector states on the form that the
25 change of address is not for voter registration purposes, (2) the elector
26 has submitted a change of address form to a voter registration agency,
27 as defined in section 9-23n, and such agency has provided such change
28 of address to the registrars of voters, or (3) the registrars of voters have
29 received a cancellation of previous registration from any other election
30 official indicating that such elector has registered as an elector outside
31 such municipality.

32 (c) Whenever the registrars of voters of a town remove from the
33 registry list the name of an elector who has submitted a change of
34 address to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or a voter registration
35 agency under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
36 indicating that the elector has moved out of such town, the registrars
37 shall send the elector, by forwardable mail to the elector's former
38 address from such list or current address in the new town, (1) a notice
39 of removal, (2) information explaining how to have the elector's name
40 restored to such list, which shall be in a form prescribed by the
41 Secretary of the State, and (3) a mail-in voter registration application
42 which can be used by the elector to apply for admission as an elector in
43 the new town. If such notice, information and application are sent to
44 the elector's former address and are returned undeliverable, the
45 registrars shall mail such documents to the elector's address in the new
46 town.

47 (d) The registrars of voters shall enter the names on such list by

48 street and number of the house, when the houses are numbered, so
49 that there shall be entered on the list first, the street, avenue or road;
50 second, the number of the house or residence in numerical order or, if
51 the registrars of any town find it more convenient, by odd and even
52 numbers in numerical order; and third, the names of the electors in
53 such house in alphabetical order. The names of any electors who
54 cannot be so listed shall be listed alphabetically in the voting district
55 wherein any such elector is a bona fide resident. The registrars of
56 voters may consecutively number the names on the registry list, may
57 include voter identification numbers for the names on the registry list,
58 and may include a mark, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State,
59 next to the name of each first-time registrant on the system who
60 registers to vote on or after January 1, 2003, and does not provide
61 identification with his or her mail-in voter registration application as
62 provided in the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from
63 time to time, provided such list shall comply in all respects with the
64 requirements of law other than for the addition of such numbers and
65 marks. The registrars of voters shall not use Social Security numbers
66 for any such voter identification numbers.

67 (e) In any case in which the registrars of voters have obtained
68 reliable information of an elector's change of address within the
69 municipality, they shall enter the name of such elector on the registry
70 list at the place where the elector then resides, provided, if such
71 reliable information is the National Change of Address System of the
72 United States Postal Service, the [registrar] registrars of voters shall
73 change the registry list and send the elector a notice of the change by
74 forwardable mail and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form by
75 which the elector may verify or correct the address information. If
76 during the canvass the registrars of voters determine that an elector
77 has moved out of town and such elector has not confirmed in writing
78 that the elector has moved out of the town, the registrars of voters
79 shall, not later than May first, send to the elector, by forwardable mail,
80 a notice required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.
81 103-31, as amended from time to time, together with a postage prepaid

82 preaddressed return card on which the elector may state the elector's
 83 current address. In the year of a presidential preference primary, the
 84 registrars of voters shall send such notice not earlier than the date of
 85 such primary. If the [registrar does] registrars of voters do not receive
 86 the return card within thirty days after it is sent, the elector's name,
 87 including the name of an elector who has not voted in two consecutive
 88 federal elections, shall be placed on the inactive registry list for four
 89 years. At the expiration of such period of time on the inactive registry
 90 list, such name shall be removed from the registry list. If such elector
 91 applies to restore the elector's name to the active registry list or votes
 92 during such period, the elector's name shall be restored to the active
 93 registry list. Such registrars of voters shall retain a duplicate copy or
 94 data entry record of each such [notice] transaction in their office [or, if
 95 they do not have a permanent office, in the office space provided
 96 under section 9-5a,] and shall [note] record on such duplicate copy or
 97 record the date on which such notice was mailed. In each municipality,
 98 any elector, upon change of residence within the municipality, may
 99 cause the elector's registration to be transferred to the elector's new
 100 address by presenting to the registrars of voters a signed request
 101 [therefore, stating] for such transfer, such as a voter registration card
 102 with a change of address checked off, and which states the elector's
 103 present address [, the date the elector moved to such address] and the
 104 address at which the elector was last registered. The registrars of
 105 voters shall thereupon enter the elector's name on the list at the
 106 elector's new residence; provided no transfer of registration shall be
 107 made on the registry list on election day without the consent of both
 108 registrars. On election day, the name of such elector shall be added to
 109 the supplemental list after the appropriate paperwork is signed.

110 Sec. 2. Section 9-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
 111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

112 [Immediately after the close of the session or immediately after the
 113 sending of notice of intended removal provided for in section 9-35, the]
 114 The registrars of voters shall post at the town hall or municipal

115 building in the municipality in which they serve, in a place readily
116 accessible to the public, a list of the names of the electors whose names
117 were removed from the registry list [at such session or will be removed
118 on the date specified] in accordance with section 9-35, as amended by
119 this act, together with the address of each such elector as it appeared
120 on the registry list at the time the name was so removed. Together with
121 such list, and as a part thereof, such registrars of voters shall also cause
122 to be posted a statement that complete information as to such removal
123 and as to the privileges and remedies of those whose names were
124 removed from the registry list is available from such registrars of
125 voters, specifying when and where such registrars of voters are
126 available for such purpose and [, in the case of registrars of voters
127 having office hours,] specifying such office hours for such registrars of
128 voters.

129 Sec. 3. Section 9-35b of the general statutes is repealed and the
130 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

131 [Except during the period between the last session for the admission
132 of electors prior to an election and the day following that election, any]
133 Any elector of any municipality who desires to relinquish his rights as
134 an elector and to have his name erased from the registry list shall make
135 a signed written request to the registrars of voters of such
136 municipality. Upon receipt of such application, the registrars of voters
137 shall remove the elector's name from the registry list and any
138 enrollment list. Any person whose name has been removed from the
139 registry list pursuant to this section may reapply for admission as an
140 elector at any time, without prejudice on account of such removal. In
141 the event such person is admitted as an elector, the registrar of the
142 municipality shall notify the registrars of voters of the municipality
143 where such person resided at the time of his relinquishment that his
144 electoral privileges have been restored.

145 Sec. 4. Section 9-35c of the general statutes is repealed and the
146 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

147 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-238, 9-406 and 9-436
 148 and other provisions of the general statutes, the names of electors on
 149 the inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35, as amended by
 150 this act, shall not be counted for purposes of computing the number of
 151 voting [machines] tabulators required and the number of petition
 152 signatures required. Each elector on such inactive registry list who, in
 153 the determination of the registrars of voters, has signed a petition
 154 pursuant to the general statutes, giving the same address as appears on
 155 the inactive registry list, shall forthwith be placed on the active registry
 156 list compiled under said section 9-35. Each such elector shall be
 157 counted for purposes of future computations of the number of voting
 158 [machines] tabulators required and the number of signatures required
 159 on future petitions issued for other electoral events. The names of
 160 electors on the inactive registry list compiled pursuant to section 9-35,
 161 as amended by this act, shall not be counted for purposes of
 162 computing the minimum percentage of the number of electors
 163 required in any charter or special act, if such charter or special act
 164 requires approval of a referendum by a minimum percentage of
 165 electors qualified on the last-completed registry list or has a similar
 166 requirement.

167 Sec. 5. Section 9-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 168 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

169 The list for which provision is made in section 9-35, as amended by
 170 this act, shall be termed the preliminary registry list and such list shall
 171 be [completed, certified by such registrars and deposited in the town
 172 clerk's office, at least thirty-one days before the regular election, and
 173 shall be on file in such office] available in the office of the registrars of
 174 voters for public inspection [until the next preliminary registry list has
 175 been completed and filed. In each municipality having a population of
 176 more than five thousand, a certified copy of such preliminary registry
 177 list for each voting district therein shall be completed, reproduced,
 178 certified by the registrars and posted in such municipality for public
 179 inspection on or before the Saturday of the fifth week before each

180 regular election,] and copies shall be made available for distribution by
181 the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall, upon request,
182 give to [a] any candidate for election [to the General Assembly] a copy
183 of the preliminary registry list for each voting district [included in the
184 General Assembly district] for which such person is a candidate.

185 Sec. 6. Section 9-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
186 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

187 [Each registrar shall keep a copy of the preliminary registry list for
188 his use in revision. Such registrars shall give notice in such list of the
189 times and places at which they will hold one or more sessions during
190 the period between the Saturday of the fifth week before the regular
191 election and the Saturday of the fourth week before the regular
192 election, for the revision and correction of such list which, when
193 completed, shall be termed the "final registry list" for such election. In
194 each municipality having a population of more than five thousand,
195 they shall also give notice of such times and places by publication in a
196 newspaper circulating in such municipality and by posting the same
197 on the signpost therein, if any, and at the office of the town clerk at
198 least five days before the first of such sessions. The number of sessions
199 shall be fixed by the registrars of each municipality. The registrars
200 shall also hold sessions, of which no public notice need be given, for
201 the purpose of correcting such preliminary list, and for the purpose of
202 adding to such list the names of persons entitled to be registered
203 thereon, on each day they are in session for the admission of electors
204 pursuant to section 9-17, and they may also hold sessions for revision
205 and correction of the registry list on any other day, except during the
206 period of six days preceding any regular election. On the fourteenth
207 day before a primary, the registrars shall hold an additional session to
208 hear such requests for adding names to the registry list, in accordance
209 with the procedure provided in this section, and the registrars shall
210 publish notice of such sessions in a newspaper having general
211 circulation in such municipality at least five days before such sessions.
212 Nothing in this section shall require that such publication be in the

213 form of a legal advertisement.] The registrars of voters shall be
214 available before all elections for revisions and corrections of the
215 preliminary list which, when completed, shall be termed "the final
216 registry list" for such election. In each municipality, availability of the
217 registrars of voters shall be the posted office hours in such
218 municipality for the registrars of voters.

219 Sec. 7. Section 9-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the
220 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

221 The registrars of voters in all towns shall [, on the second Friday
222 preceding a regular election, deposit in the town clerk's office the final
223 registry list arranged as provided in section 9-35 and certified by them
224 to be correct, and shall retain a sufficient number of copies to be used
225 by them at such election for the purpose of checking the names of
226 those who vote. They shall place on such final list, in the order
227 provided in section 9-35, the names of all persons who have been
228 admitted as electors. In each municipality said registrars shall also
229 cause to be prepared and printed and deposited in the town clerk's
230 office a supplementary or updated list containing the names and
231 addresses of electors to be transferred, restored or added to such list
232 prior to the fourth day before such election, provided in municipalities
233 having a population of less than twenty-five thousand, such additional
234 names may be inserted in writing in such final list. Such final registry
235 list and supplementary or updated list deposited in the town clerk's
236 office shall be on file in such office for public inspection for a period of
237 two years, and any elector may make copies thereof] produce a final
238 registry list arranged in accordance with the provisions of section 9-35,
239 as amended by this act, and certified by the registrars of voters to be
240 correct. Such final registry list and supplementary or updated list shall
241 be on file in the municipal clerk's office not later than the day before
242 election day and shall be available in the registrars of voters' office for
243 public inspection. Any elector may request copies of such list.

244 Sec. 8. Section 9-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the

245 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

246 The registrars of voters of each municipality shall upon request,
 247 print copies of the final registry list for distribution in such
 248 municipality and in all the voting districts located therein. [provided
 249 nothing in sections 9-12 to 9-45, inclusive, shall require the printing of
 250 more than one final registry list for any voting district in any one year.
 251 With each printing such registrars shall retain at least two copies of
 252 such lists and such copies shall be available for public use in the office
 253 of the registrars for a period of two years.] The registrars shall, upon
 254 request, give to [a] any candidate for election [to the General
 255 Assembly] a copy of the final registry list for each voting district
 256 [included in the General Assembly district] for which such person is a
 257 candidate and shall maintain such list, either on paper or in electronic
 258 format, for a period of two years.

259 Sec. 9. Section 9-50a of the general statutes is repealed and the
 260 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

261 The registrars of voters of each town shall [, on a monthly basis,]
 262 compile a list of (1) all persons whose names were added, restored,
 263 removed or erased from the active and inactive registry lists, [during
 264 the preceding month,] (2) all electors who changed either their names
 265 or addresses, [during such period] and (3) all persons sent notices
 266 required under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
 267 31, as amended from time to time, and all persons who have replied to
 268 such notices. Such list shall include, but not be limited to, each such
 269 person's or elector's (A) name, (B) former name, [if changed during
 270 such period,] (C) address, [including zip code,] (D) former address,
 271 [including zip code, if changed during such period,] (E) voting district,
 272 and (F) party affiliation, if any. The registrars shall make each such list
 273 available to the public [in accordance with the provisions of section 1-
 274 210] upon such request.

275 Sec. 10. Section 9-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 276 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

277 (a) The registrars of voters shall cause to be printed [at least once
278 during the calendar year a sufficient number of copies of complete,
279 corrected enrollment lists certified by them as correct, provided a
280 supplementary or updated list shall be printed within one week after a
281 session held on the fourteenth day before a primary] a complete
282 enrollment list and shall make such list available to the public upon
283 request.

284 (b) If a political party authorizes unaffiliated electors to vote in a
285 primary, under section 9-431, and a notice of primary is published, the
286 registrars shall cause a list of all unaffiliated electors eligible to vote in
287 the primary to be printed [within one week after the session held on
288 the fourteenth day] before such primary. If unaffiliated electors are
289 authorized to vote in only one party's primary and are authorized to
290 vote for all offices to be contested at the primary, the registrars may
291 print the list of unaffiliated electors in combination with such party's
292 enrollment list, indicating party affiliation where applicable.

293 (c) If the legislative body of the municipality votes to eliminate
294 separate enrollment lists under section 9-54 and:

295 (1) Notices of primaries are published for two parties to be held on
296 the same day, the registrars of voters shall print complete separate
297 enrollment lists [within one week after the enrollment session held on
298 the fourteenth day before the primary] and, if unaffiliated electors are
299 authorized to vote in the primary, the registrars of voters shall print a
300 separate list of unaffiliated electors as provided in subsection (b) of this
301 section; or

302 (2) A notice of primary is published for one party in which
303 unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote for some but not all offices
304 to be contested at the primary, the registrars of voters shall print a
305 complete separate enrollment list and a separate list of unaffiliated
306 electors as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

307 (3) A notice of primary is published for only one party and (A)

308 unaffiliated electors are not authorized to vote, or (B) unaffiliated
 309 electors are authorized to vote for all offices to be contested at the
 310 primary, a registry list may be used as a checklist at the primary and
 311 the registrars of voters shall [, within one week after the session held
 312 on the fourteenth day before such primary,] print a supplementary or
 313 updated list indicating those electors who have become eligible to vote
 314 in the primary since the printing of the registry list.

315 (d) Whenever a list is required by this section to be printed, [within
 316 one week after the session held on the fourteenth day before the
 317 primary,] a supplement to such list shall be compiled by the registrars
 318 of voters of persons who after such date and prior to twelve o'clock
 319 noon of the last business day before the primary become eligible to
 320 vote in such primary. The registrars of voters may combine such
 321 separate compilation with the foregoing printed list [either by inserting
 322 the names in writing or] by reprinting the list or incorporating the
 323 supplementary [or updated list into a single printed] list.

324 (e) The registrars of voters shall [file one copy of each such list with
 325 the town clerk which copy shall be] make available for public use such
 326 list in the office of the [town clerk] registrars of voters until the
 327 printing of the next completed [, corrected] enrollment list; and they
 328 shall deliver to the chairman of the town committee of each political
 329 party five copies of each such list for each voting district in the town.
 330 Upon request the registrars of voters shall give one complete set of
 331 such lists to each candidate for nomination for any office or for election
 332 as a town committee member. They shall deliver a sufficient number of
 333 copies thereof to the moderator of each primary. [With each printing
 334 the registrars shall retain at least six copies of each such list and such
 335 copies shall be available for public use in the office of the registrars
 336 until the printing of the next complete, corrected enrollment list.] No
 337 petition brought under the provisions of section 9-63 shall operate to
 338 delay the completion and printing of such lists. If the petition of any
 339 elector is granted after any such list has been completed, the [registrar
 340 or assistant registrar] registrars of voters or assistant registrars of

341 voters, as the case may be, shall issue to such elector a certificate
342 showing that the elector is entitled to the privileges accompanying
343 enrollment in the political party named in the elector's petition.

344 Sec. 11. Section 9-169g of the general statutes is repealed and the
345 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

346 (a) The [town clerk] registrars of voters of any municipality (1)
347 which is divided between two or more assembly districts, two or more
348 senatorial districts or two or more congressional districts, or (2) which
349 is not divided between any such districts but is divided into two or
350 more voting districts for General Assembly or congressional elections,
351 shall submit to the Secretary of the State a street map of the
352 municipality which indicates the boundary lines of the voting districts
353 established by the municipality in accordance with sections 9-169, 9-
354 169a and 9-169d. The [town clerk] registrars of voters shall submit such
355 map to the secretary (A) not later than July 30, 1997, if any such
356 division is in effect on July 1, 1997, or, if no such division is in effect on
357 July 1, 1997, not later than thirty days after any such division first takes
358 effect, and (B) not later than thirty days after any change in any such
359 division takes effect.

360 (b) The Secretary of the State shall make such maps available to the
361 General Assembly, for use by the General Assembly in carrying out its
362 responsibilities under (1) Article XXVI of the Amendments to the
363 Constitution of Connecticut, or any subsequent corresponding state
364 constitutional provision, with regard to the redistricting of assembly,
365 senatorial and congressional districts, and (2) Public Law 94-171,
366 concerning the establishment of a plan identifying the geographic
367 areas for which specific tabulations of population are desired in the
368 decennial census of the United States.

369 Sec. 12. Section 9-172b of the general statutes is repealed and the
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

371 (a) In each municipality or political subdivision in which a special

372 election or referendum is to be held, the registrars of voters shall
373 prepare a supplementary or updated list of the names and addresses of
374 those persons who acquired voting privileges after the completion of
375 the revised registry list and prior to the day of such special election or
376 referendum. In each such municipality or political subdivision, not
377 later than the day before such special election or referendum, such
378 registrars of voters shall cause to be completed and printed [and
379 deposited in the town clerk's office] such list arranged as provided in
380 section 9-35, as amended by this act, and certified by them to be
381 correct, and shall retain a sufficient number of copies to be used by
382 them at such election or referendum for the purpose of checking the
383 names of those who vote, provided the names of any persons who
384 acquired such voting privileges [within thirty days before such special
385 election or referendum] may be inserted on [such printed list in
386 writing] the supplemental list.

387 (b) In the case of a special election or referendum, no person
388 admitted as an elector on the day of the special election or referendum
389 shall be entitled to vote in that election.

390 Sec. 13. Section 9-238a of the general statutes is repealed and the
391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

392 During the first week of [February] January in each year, the [town
393 clerk] registrars of voters of each town shall notify the Secretary of the
394 State, on a form provided by said secretary, of the total number of
395 names on the active registry list and on each enrollment list and the
396 total number of unaffiliated electors, in such town, and of the total
397 number of voting [machines] tabulators therein and, in towns divided
398 into voting districts, in addition, the same information for each voting
399 district. If the number of [machines] tabulators listed in such
400 notification is less than the number required under section 9-238, the
401 [town clerk] registrars of voters shall include in such notification an
402 explanation of the discrepancy. [Each such clerk shall also file a
403 duplicate copy of such notification with the officials who are required

404 to provide voting machines in his municipality under section 9-238.]

405 Sec. 14. Section 9-58 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
406 *October 1, 2007*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-35
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-35a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-35b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-35c
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-36
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-37
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-38
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-39
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-50a
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-55
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-169g
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-172b
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-238a
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement certain provisions relating to the centralized voter registry system.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]